

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 MCT-01

HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00

CA-01 A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 PC-01 SYE-00

ACDA-12 TRSE-00 EB-08 /163 W

-----101649 141757Z /41

O 141705Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9670

INFO URUFHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 210

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE POUCH

AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1525

US MISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 137

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4760

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DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/AF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG

SUBJECT: KOLWEZI ATTACK: GOZ MAKES GENERAL APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

REF: KINSHASA 4759

1. SUMMARY: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IDZUMBUIR CALLED IN BELGIAN, FRENCH, CHINESE, MOROCCAN AND U.S. CHIEFS OF MISSION MAY 14 AND APPEALED FOR MAXIMUM SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE IN FACE OF CURRENT ATTACK ON SHABA. APPEAL WAS IN GENERAL TERMS, BUT WE EXPECT SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING SOON. IDZUMBUIR CITED EVIDENCE OF CUBAN PRESENCE AMONG ATTACKERS AND MADE CLEAR GOZ INTENDED "TO ACCUSE CUBANS AND SOVIETS OFFICIALLY AT APPROPRIATE TIME". GOZ WILL INFORM OAU AND UN SEC GEN OF SITUATION IN NEXT TWO DAYS BUT WILL AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE SEEKING ACTION FROM THOSE ORGANIZATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IDZUMBUIR SAID HE WAS MAKING PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF MOBUTU, WHO HAD INTENDED TO SEE US PERSONALLY BUT WAS CALLED TO FAZ HEADQUARTERS INSTEAD (WE IN FACT WAITED AT PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR SOME TIME BEFORE BEING REFERRED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY). HE SAID SITUATION IN SHABA HAD GROWN MORE SERIOUS, WITH KATANGANS ENGAGED AT KOLWEZI IN URBAN GUERRILLA WARFARE WHICH DIFFICULT FOR FAZ TO HANDLE IN VIEW OF PRESENCE OF CIVILIAN POPULATION, INCLUDING EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS. (MY BELGIAN AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES STATE THEY HAVE 2,800 AND 400 NATIONALS IN KOLWEZI, RESPECTIVELY.) IN THIS CONNECTION, IDZUMBUIR SAID FAZA MIRAGES HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO LIMIT BOMBING TO AIRFIELD. (BELGIAN INTERJECTED THAT GECAMINES HAD ALREADY COMPLAINED THAT BOMBS FROM MIRAGES HAD DAMAGED ITS FACILITIES). I EXPRESSED CONFIDENTIAL

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STRONG HOPE THAT FAZ MILITARY WOULD TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO AVOID ANY HARM TO AMERICANS AS WELL AS OTHER CIVILIANS AT KOLWEZI; IDZUMBUIR ACKNOWLEDGED MY CONCERN, ADDING THAT THAT WAS ALL THE MORE REASON U.S. SHOULD GIVE AS MUCH HELP AS POSSIBLE.

3. IDZUMBUIR SAID THAT, IN ADDITION TO KOLWEZI ATTACK, KATANGANS HAD MOVED ACROSS THE BORDER FURTHER WEST IN REGION OF KASAJI AND THERES WAS TROOP CONCENTRATION AT DILOLO. HE CLAIMED GOZ INTELLIGENCE AND RECONNAISSANCE HAD DETECTED "WHITE FACES" AMONG KATANGANS AT DILOLO, AS WELL AS HEAVY WEAPONS. ALSO, SOME OF MONITORED RADIO CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN KATANGAN ELEMENTS IN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE WERE IN SPANISH, INDICATING THAT CUBANS WERE OPERATING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER.

4. ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF GOZ DIPLOMATIC ACTIONS, IDZUMBUIR SAID AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE LEGEMA WOULD LEAVE MAY 14 FOR PARIS, WHERE HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA WILL APPRISE OAU OF SITUATION BY CONSULTATION WITH GABONESE FOREIGN MINISTER. THE TWO WILL PROCEED TO LONDON TO CONSULT WITH KAUNDA (SINCE GOZ CLAIMS KATANGANS LAUNCHING SOME OF THEIR ATTACKS FROM ZAMBIAN TERRITORY), AND THEN TO NEW YORK TO INFORM UN SECRETARY GENERAL. IDZUMBUIR SPECIFIED THAT FOR NOW GOZ WILL MRELY INFORM OAU AND UN SEC GEN, HOLDING IN RESERVE ANY REQUESTS FOR ACTION BY THOSE ORGANIZATIONS PENDING EVOLUTION OF SHABA SITUATION. IDZUMBUIR CONFIRMED THAT

MOBUTU HAD ALREADY REQUESTED CONGO GOVERNMENT TO PREVAIL ON ANGOLANS TO INDUCE WITHDRAWAL OF KATANGAN ATTACKERS, NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT CONGO PRESIDENT YHOMBY WAS NOW TRAVELING ABROAD.

5. IDZUMBUIR SAID GOZ WOULD MAKE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT ON KOLWEZI ATTACK LATER SAME DAY (SEE REFTEL RE MOBUTU'S DECLARATION TO OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWS AGENCY). INTERESTINGLY, CHINESE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT ANY SUCH STATEMENT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL FROM STANDPOINT OF ASSURING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IF IT MADE CLEAR THAT SOVIETS AND CUBANS WERE INVOLVED WITH KATANGANS. IDZUMBUIR SAID GOZ WOULD OFFICIALLY ACCUSE SOVIETS AND CUBANS, BUT MOST APPROPRIATE TIME AND MEANS HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED.

6. COMMENT: IMBEDDED IN IDZUMBUIR'S SOMEWHAT MAKE SHIFT PRESENTATION WERE INDICATIONS THAT (A) GOZ IS NOW BEGINNING IN EARNEST TO BUILD CASE OF DIRECT SOVIET/CUBAN/ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT; CONFIDENTIAL

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(B) MORE DEFINITIVE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND MATERIAL, WILL PROBABLY BE FORTHCOMING SOON; AND (C) GOZ HOPES PRESENCE OR ENDANGERED AMERICAN CIVILIANS AT KOLWEZI WILL INDUCE US TO BE MORE SUPPORTIVE OF GOZ EFFORTS THAN MIGHT OTHERWISE BE THE CASE. CERTAINLY MOBUTU WILL BE LOOKING FOR AT LEAST PRIVATE ASSURANCES OF SUCH SUPPORT FROM US AND IN THIS CONNECTION BELGIAN CHARGE TOLD ME THAT HE HAS RECEIVED "MESSAGE OF SUPPORT" FROM SIMONET FOR DELIVERY TO MOBUTU. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS RE U.S. POSTURE IN THIS REGARD WILL BE MADE SEPARATELY AFTER WE HAVE HAD MORE TIME TO ASSESS THE STILL-CONFUSED SITUATION. CUTLER

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## Message Attributes

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